



Date: April 30, 2016

Memo To: Town of Bluffton Town Council; Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors; Marc Orlando, Town Manager

From: David Nelems, Don Ryan Center for Innovation Executive Director

RE: APRIL 2016 DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION REPORT

CENTER OPERATIONS

- Multiple meetings with **Marc Orlando** and/or **Trisha Greathouse** regarding **DRCI budget**.
- Multiple calls/meetings with **Chairman Matt Green** about various **growth opportunities**.
- **2016 Golf Fundraiser** meeting.
- **Updated DRCI Golf website**.
- **Updated DRCI website**.
- Meeting with Alan Gambill from **Colleton River Plantation**
- **Alpha Media Radio** interview.
- **Strategic Growth Planning** meeting with Michael Matthews.
- **Worked on membership program**.

INNOVATORS

- Currently there are **8 innovators** in the Center.
- **CERAS completed the program** at the end of **April**.
- **Taylor Offshore** will **complete the program** at the end of **May**.
- Met with **every innovator at least once** (some multiple times) during the month.
- Coordinating prototype development for Bluffton based **Elongator**. Twice weekly Videoconference design meetings with the Southeastern Institute for Manufacturing Technology in Florence, SC. **Field trip to Florence** on
- Met with **one potential innovator**.
- Multiple **calls and videoconferences** with **Clemson**.
- Working on new **Elongator website**.
- Call with **Clemson "Package Insight"** team for Taylor Offshore.

OUTREACH, STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

- Judged a SCORE "Shark Tank" event at **Bluffton High School**

- Monthly call with all **Clemson Technology Village Directors**.
- Held **6thth SCAD educational** session in Savannah. One more session this Spring.
- Kickoff meetings with representatives from USCB for partnering on the **“Celebrate Bluffton” app**.
- Met with one **new mentor** for the DRCI.
- Monthly call with **Clemson Technology Village Directors**.
- Call with representatives from **The Creative Coast** about **partnership** opportunities.
- Created **“Entrepreneurship In Residence”** agreement for Josh Hale and David Sklar.
- Meeting - Joe McKeown/Mayor Sulka/Scott Thompson
- Beaufort County Schools **shark tank event held at DRCI**.
- Meeting with Jonathan King.

TOWN OF BLUFFTON OPERATIONS

- Attended **Senior Staff** meetings.
- Attended Town Council
- Audit Meeting With Springsted